



**OKLAHOMA
WORKS**

Southwest Oklahoma Unveils First of Its Kind Apprenticeship Program

Oklahoma City (October 25, 2018) -----A first of its kind registered apprenticeship program will help job-seekers earn full-time wages while they receive certifications in childhood development has been unveiled in southwest Oklahoma.

The Community Action Development Corporation (CADC), based in Frederick, and Southwest Community Action Group, based in Altus, have teamed up with Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC) to offer job-seekers a way to earn certifications and full-time wages at the same time.

The program will allow apprentices to receive two years of on-the-job training as teaching assistants within Headstart programs. At the same time, those apprentices will attend WOSC in Altus to complete 18 hours of college credit and receive their Child Development Assistant (CDA) Certification.

“We are committed to expanding and diversifying apprenticeship throughout our state, said Jenna Morey, State Director of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning. “Apprenticeship can be a game-changer for Oklahoma employers and for the careers of apprentices and we are excited to see more apprenticeship opportunities take root in southwest Oklahoma.”

Both community action agencies will cover the cost for apprentices to attend WOSC and receive CDA certification. Both agencies have also committed to continuing to support apprentices’ education should they wish to continue on past certification to obtain an associate’s degree or a bachelor’s degree in education. WOSC hours gained through the CDA certification are transferrable.

“We continually have a need for qualified, caring teaching assistants to serve the children enrolled in our Head Start programs. We believe that this Registered Apprenticeship program will help us recruit and retain the workers we need while also allowing us to make a meaningful investment into the lives of our apprentices,” said Brent Morey, CADC Executive Director.

“These programs came to fruition through the cooperation of a number of partners,” said Michael Balderas, Assistant Head Start Director SOGAG. “We are particularly grateful to Western Oklahoma State College for working with us to create the curriculum we need in an online format so that apprentices can work, learn, and attend to their families at the same time.”

Both community action agencies have also worked closely with their local workforce development boards, the South Central Oklahoma Workforce Board and the Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board.

This Registered Apprenticeship program was established through the cooperation of the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Labor, and WOSC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pictured L-R: Lisa Griffith, CADC Head Start Director; Shannan Walton, OK State Director of Apprenticeship, U.S. DOL; Brent Morey, Executive Director CADC; Chad Wiginton, President Western Oklahoma State College; Michael Balderas, Assistant Head Start Director SOCAG; Jenna Morey, State Director of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning, OOWD

About Oklahoma Works:

Oklahoma Works is designed to increase the wealth of all Oklahomans through facilitating quality employment for workers and ready availability of highly skilled talent for business and industry. Oklahoma Works' strategic priorities are coordinated by the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development. The initiative was implemented by Gov. Mary Fallin and is a coalition of state agencies, educational institutions, businesses and other partners. Learn more at www.oklahomaworks.gov.

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